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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/683,353	12/18/2001	Victor I. Deonarine	ITW7510.008	3939

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EXAMINER

DEJESUS, LYDIA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2859

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/683,353

Applicant(s)

DEONARINE, VICTOR I.

Examiner

Lydia M. De Jesús

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,6,9-11 and 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,7,8,12 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed on March 22, 2002 has been placed of record and the references cited therein have been considered.
2. The papers filed on **March 22, 2002** (certificate of mailing dated **March 14, 2002**) have not been made part of the permanent records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) for this application (37 CFR 1.52(a)) because of damage from the United States Postal Service irradiation process. The above-identified papers, however, were not so damaged as to preclude the USPTO from making a legible copy of such papers. Therefore, the Office has made a copy of these papers, substituted them for the originals in the file, and stamped that copy:

COPY OF PAPERS ORIGINALLY FILED

If applicant wants to review the accuracy of the Office's copy of such papers, applicant may either inspect the application (37 CFR 1.14(d)) or may request a copy of the Office's records of such papers (*i.e.*, a copy of the copy made by the Office) from the Office of Public Records for the fee specified in 37 CFR 1.19(b)(4). Please do **not** call the Technology Center's Customer Service Center to inquiry about the completeness or accuracy of Office's copy of the above-identified papers, as the Technology Center's Customer Service Center will **not** be able to provide this service.

If applicant does not consider the Office's copy of such papers to be accurate, applicant must provide a copy of the above-identified papers (except for any U.S. or foreign patent documents submitted with the above-identified papers) with a statement that such copy is a complete and accurate copy of the originally submitted documents. If applicant provides such a copy of the above-identified papers and statement within **THREE MONTHS** of the mail date of this Office action, the Office will add the original mailroom date and use the copy provided by applicant as the permanent Office record of the above-identified papers in place of the copy made by the Office. Otherwise, the Office's copy will be used as the permanent Office record of the above-identified papers (*i.e.*, the Office will use the copy of the above-identified papers made by the Office for examination and all other purposes). This three-month period is not extendable.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 8 and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities:

There is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “first and second indicator sticks” recited in line 1 of claim 8. It appears that this limitation should read “first and second indicator stick housings”.

Examiner suggests further clarifying the structural relationship of the clamp with the connector in order to clearly describe the relationship between the housing and the clamp.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ribi.

Ribi discloses a dual temperature indicator stick apparatus [10], illustrated in Figure 1, comprising: first means [16] for indicating a first temperature; second means [18] for indicating a second temperature; and means [14] for retaining the first means to the second means in a side-by-side relationship to form an indicator stick assembly capable of indicating at least two temperatures. Said apparatus further comprises a means i.e., handle [12], for controlling movement of the first and second means.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over OMEGAMARKER® Temperature Test Kit [hereinafter OMEGAMARKER®] in view of Deats.

OMEGAMARKER® discloses a kit of temperature indicator sticks in the form of crayons of different colors and each temperature indicator stick melts at a predetermined temperature. OMEGAMARKER® also shows the use a holder/housing for each crayon.

OMEGAMARKER® fails to disclose a connector physically connecting a first and second indicators.

Deats teaches that it is very well known in the art to physically connecting two marking utensils i.e., pencils, along different axes slidably secured by a connector in a side-by-side relationship. Said connector comprises a longitudinal member [7] having curved ends [1,2] configured to secure the two marking utensils to the connector. Said curved ends include a pair of curved sections, as shown in Figure 2. Said connector slidably secures the two marking utensils in a side-by-side relationship and further includes a clip member [8] configured to permit attachment of the connector to an object.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a connector device for two different indicator sticks in the

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OMEGAMARKER® kit, as suggested by Deats, in order to provide an indicator assembly for marking two commonly used thresholds.

With respect to claims 16-20: The resulting assembly comprises a first means for indicating a first temperature, said first means comprising a first temperature indicator stick; a second means for indicating a second temperature, said second means comprising a second temperature indicating stick; means for retaining the first means to the second means in a side-by-side relationship to form an indicator stick assembly capable of indicating at least two temperatures, said retaining means comprising a pair of tubular members [1,2] secured together by a connector that includes a longitudinal member [7] having curved ends [1,2] integrally molded to each of the tubular members, said retaining means considered to serve as a means for controlling the movement of the first and second means.

2. Claims 10, 11, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitfield et al. [hereinafter Whitfield] in view of Deats.

Whitfield discloses a housing element for a temperature indicator stick in the form of a pencil holder having an advancement mechanism engaging the temperature indicator stick [28] and configured to extend the temperature indicator stick from the housing upon rotation of the advancement mechanism [32].

Whitfield fails to disclose a connector assembly.

Deats shows that a connector assembly receiving two marking utensils i.e., pencils, is very well known in the art. The connector includes a clamp (3+5+1+2) to align the two pencils align different axes in a side-by-side relationship. Said clamp has a longitudinal member [7]

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having curved ends [1,2], the curved ends configured to slidingly secure the two pencils in a side-by-side relationship.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a connector for connecting two of the temperature indicator housing elements of Whitfield, as taught by Deats, in order to have a spare indicator pencil at hand.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2, 4, 7 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Claims 8 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection(s) set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 2 has been found to be allowable over the Prior Art of record because the Prior Art of record fails to teach or suggest a dual temperature indicator stick assembly including a pair of collets having threads and each being rotatably coupled to the housing and configured to engage separate temperature indicating sticks upon rotation of the collet about the housing, in combination with limitations of claim 1.

Claim 4 has been found to be allowable over the Prior Art of record because the Prior Art of record fails to teach or suggest a dual temperature indicator stick assembly that in addition to

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the limitations of claim 3, includes hooks on the curved ends of the connector configured to engage the first and second indicator stick housings to prevent rotation of the first and second indicator stick housing.

Claim 7 has been found to be allowable over the Prior Art of record due to its dependence upon the language of claim 4.

Claim 12 has been found to be allowable over the Prior Art of record because the Prior Art of record fails to teach or suggest a dual indicator stick holder comprising a connector assembly which, in addition to the limitations of the preceding claims, includes a pair of resistance mechanisms attached to one of the first and second housing elements to limit rotational movement of the two temperature indicator sticks.

Claim 13 has been found to be allowable over the Prior Art of record because the Prior Art of record fails to teach or suggest a dual indicator stick holder wherein the housings, in addition to the limitations of the claims 10 and 11, has a groove on an outer surface to engage an end of a clamp and prevent rotation of the first and second housing elements.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Mack discloses a writing implement with two retractable cartridges. Mullins discloses an apparatus for holding a writing utensil. Dumas discloses a multiple pen holder. Ellis et al. disclose a temperature indicator. Sixiong discloses a non-mingling multicolor marker. Asano et al. discloses a writing instrument with plural elements. Besthorne discloses a combination pen and pencil writing instrument. Garcia discloses a high temperature penetrant system. Gen et al. discloses soldering methods and devices.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lydia M. De Jesús whose telephone number is (703) 306-5982.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F.F. Gutierrez can be reached on (703) 308-3875. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 305-3431 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.



Diego F.F. Gutierrez
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

LDJ
December 14, 2002